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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/582,611

10/29/2008

Hiroto Tomita

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06/19/2009

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EXAMINER

LAUTURE, JOSEPH J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2819

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/19/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/582,611	Applicant(s) TOMITA ET AL.	
	Examiner JOSEPH LAUTURE	Art Unit 2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 June 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/20/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The application has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible typographical and grammatical errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which he/she may become aware in the application.

The Information Disclosure Statements filed ----- have been considered.

Objection to Claim

Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 3, line 4, "decode each" should be replaced with --a respective one--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Bakhmutsky (US 5,990,812).

Regarding claim 1, Bakhmutsky teaches in figure (9) a variable length decoding device (70) comprising: a decoding unit (84) operable to decode different kinds of variable length codes (See abstract; See column 14, lines 45-48)) encoded in accordance with a plurality of encoding systems; a stream input unit operable to input the different kinds of variable length codes (See column 14, lines 48-50; See abstract);

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and an interface in the form of a programmable controller that includes circuit (90) (See column 14, lines 45-48; See abstract) operable to interface the decoding unit with stream input unit, wherein the stream input unit and said interface unit are commonly used in decoding the different kinds of variable length codes.

Regarding claim 2, Bakhmutsky teaches a variable length decoding device comprising: a reconfigurable logic circuit as part of a programmable controller (See abstract) operable to decode the different kinds of variable length codes encoded in accordance with the plurality of encoders (See column 14, lines 45-49; See abstract).

Regarding claim 3, Bakhmutsky teaches a variable length decoding device wherein the decoding unit comprises: a plurality of decoders (See abstract), each of the plurality of decoders being operable to decode a respective of the different kinds of variable length codes (See column 14, lines 45-50; See abstract) encoded in accordance with the plurality of encoding systems.

Regarding claim 4, Bakhmutsky teaches a variable length decoding device wherein a decoder selector is connected to a stream input unit or input circuit (See abstract) and is operable to select (See abstract) one of the plurality of decoders, according to a code system signal indicative of one of the plurality of encoding systems employed in the encoding.

Regarding claim 6, Bakhmutsky teaches a variable length decoding device including an input circuit (See abstract) having a code detecting unit operable to detect a start code (See column 13, lines 63-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bakhmutsky (US 5,990,812) in view of Giorgetta et al (US 7,035,292).

Regarding this claim, Bakhmutsky teaches the essential features of the claimed invention as set forth above except for controlling/disconnecting a decoder that is not selected for the purpose of suppressing power consumption. However, such schemes are known in the art, as evidenced by Giorgetta et al. Giorgetta et al teach a system wherein a decoder not in use is disabled to suppress power consumption (See column 5, lines 14-18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bakhmutsky and of Giorgetta to realize a decoder system having improved performance and reliability because that would reduce power consumption (See column 5, lines 14-18).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Lauture, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1805. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday between 9:30 am and 6:00 PM

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford Barnie can be reached at (571) 272-7492. The fax number for the organization to which this application is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free). For assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Joseph Lauture
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Date: 06/03/2009

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/Rexford N BARNIE/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2819